

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the present Application are presented below whether or not an amendment has been made. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for generating an audio alert, comprising:
detecting an alert ~~condition~~ condition;
determining a multi-tiered notification path associated with the alert condition, each tier of the notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with respect to the alert condition;
constructing an audio notification message based on at least one parameter associated with the alert condition; and
outputting the audio notification message via at least one tier of the multi-tiered notification path.
2. **(Canceled)**
3. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein constructing an audio notification message includes identifying a portion of the message that is likely to be difficult for a user to understand and replacing the identified portion with a more easily understood synonym.
4. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein detecting at alert condition includes detecting an alert condition within a plurality of subsystems of a network management application.
5. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising defining at least one audio characteristic associated with the audio notification message.
6. **(Original)** The method of Claim 5, wherein the audio characteristic is a volume.

7. **(Original)** The method of Claim 5, wherein the audio characteristic is a balance.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the audio ~~messages~~ notification message is presented in accordance with a filter.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the determining the multi-tiered notification path includes analyzing a parameter associated with alert condition and selecting the at least one tier of the notification path based on the parameter.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 1, wherein determining the multi-tiered notification path includes analyzing an escalation list.

11. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein constructing the audio notification message includes:

- determining a user associated with the audio notification message;
- determining a language preference associated with the user; and
- constructing the audio message based on the language preference.

12. **(Withdrawn)** A method for processing an audio command, comprising:

- receiving an audio command from a user;
- processing the audio command to derive command data;
- constructing a command based on the command data; and
- storing the command in an object repository.

13. **(Currently Amended)** A system for generating an audio alert, comprising;
means for detecting an alert ~~condition~~ condition;
means for determining a multi-tiered notification path associated with the alert condition, each tier of the notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with respect to the alert condition;
means for constructing an audio notification message based on at least one parameter associated with the alert condition; and
means for outputting the audio notification message via at least one tier of the multi-tiered notification path.

14. **(Withdrawn)** A system for processing an audio command, comprising;
means for receiving an audio command from a user;
means for processing the audio command to derive command data;
means for constructing a command based on the command data; and
means for storing the command in an object repository.

15. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-readable storage medium encoded with processing instructions for generating an audio alert, including:
computer readable instructions for detecting an alert ~~condition~~ condition;
computer readable instructions for determining a multi-tiered notification path associated with the alert condition, each tier of the notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with respect to the alert condition;
computer readable instructions for constructing an audio notification message based on at least one parameter associated with the alert condition; and
computer readable instructions for outputting the audio notification message via at least one tier of the multi-tiered notification path.

16. **(Withdrawn)** A computer-readable storage medium encoded with processing instructions for processing an audio command, including:

- computer readable instructions for receiving an audio command from a user;
- computer readable instructions for processing the audio command to derive command data;
- computer readable instructions for constructing a command based on the command data; and
- computer readable instructions for storing the command in an object repository.

17. **(New)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising identifying the occurrence of a prior alert condition that was not responded to, and wherein the multi-tier notification path is determined based at least in part on the occurrence of the prior alert condition.

18. **(New)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising assigning the level of responsibility to each of the one or more users based upon the severity of the alert condition.

19. **(New)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising assigning the level of responsibility to each of the one or more users based upon a type of object associated with the alert condition.

20. **(New)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising constructing an additional audio notification message if the audio notification message is not responded to within a designated time limit.

21. **(New)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising constructing an additional audio notification message if the alert condition is not addressed within a designated time limit.

22. **(New)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising filtering the audio notification message such that at least one user on the multi-tiered notification path does not receive the audio notification message.

23. **(New)** The method of Claim 22, wherein filtering the audio notification message comprises filtering the audio notification message based on a property associated with an object associated with the alert condition.

24. **(New)** The method of Claim 23, wherein the property is selected from the group consisting of a type of the object, a name of the object, a location of the object, the severity of the alert condition, the time of day, a level of risk, and an importance assigned to the object.